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**Minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington.**

**On Thursday 14th November 2024 at 6.30pm.**

**PRESENTATIONS.**

* None scheduled for the meeting.

**QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

* A member of the public raised the issue of the proposed new cycle way. He highlighted issues such as a 5mtr wide path rather than a 3mtr wide being proposed (which is the width in other areas), the loss of greenery, and under- utilisation. The Chair confirmed that any funding for Bedlington projects must be acceptable to residents. This issue is on the Agenda at point B 2c for further discussion and a formal decision.
* A member of the public raised the issue of when the new bus shelter will be installed at Choppington Road. The Clerk informed the meeting that it is scheduled for installation on 25th November.

**PART A - ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.**

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| Min Ref |  | **Attendance / Apologies and Declarations of Interests.** | **Determination** |
| 24/155 |  | **In Attendance** | Councillors, Crosby, Hedley, Henderson, Hogg, Taylor (Chair), Thompson, D Wallace and R Wallace.  Town Clerk S Young, Deputy Town Clerk G Turner and Assistant Town Clerk M McTeer.  Seven (7) members of the public. |
| 24/156 | a. | **Apologies for Absence.**   1. To receive and note any apologies for absence from Councillors. 2. To consider and determine any dispensations for absent Councillors. | 1. Apologies for absence from Councillor Todd was **NOTED.** 2. There were no dispensations for absence for this meeting. |
| 24/157 | b. | **Declaration of Interests.**   1. Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest, (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest), they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 12th July 2012.   ii. To consider any requests for dispensations. | 1. No declarations were declared. 2. No dispensations for this meeting. |

**PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION**

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS / SUMMARY OF DELEGATED DECISIONS**

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|  |  | **Details of Meeting or Delegated Decisions** | **Determination** |
| 24/158 | a. | To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on  10th October 2024. | **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 10th October 2024 are **APPROVED** as a true record**.** |
| 24/159 | b. | To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting that are not included as agenda items. | There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2024. |

1. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

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|  |  | **Matters for Discussion / Decision** | **Determination** |
| 24/160 | a. | **Community Chest / Funding Requests.**  The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon funding requests from:   1. Wag & Company North East Friendship Dogs. Details distributed to members. 2. St Bede’s Primary school PTA for a financial contribution to assist with the continuation of The Jubilee Games. Details distributed to members | **RESOLVED**     1. Members unanimously approved a grant of £200 and   to advertise this service in our Magazine to increase visits which could lead to increased funding   1. Members agreed to defer this application in order for the Clerk to contact all schools to ask if they are onboard with the proposal and to make the payment from the pupil fund. |
| 24/161 | b. | **Finance**   1. **2025 -26 Budget and Precept Preparation.**   The Council are asked to consider and decide upon a proposal (in principle) to set aside funding within the new year’s (2025 -26) budget for the provision of an event to commemorate VE 80th Anniversary.   1. **Internal Audit Interim Report**   The Council are requested to NOTE the interim internal audit report distributed. There is no area of concern reported. | 1. **Members unanimously agreed to support a VE 80th Anniversary event.**   .     1. **Members received and noted the Internal Audit Interim Report** |
| 24/162 | c. | **Bedlington Walking and Cycling Consultation**  Members are requested to formulate the Council’s response to Northumberland County Councils consultation re the proposed Bedlington Walking and Cycling Route | **RESOLVED** Members unanimously **Objected** to the project on the following issues:   * Width of the path 5mtrs **should be** 3mtrs. * Connectivity and location i.e. does not link areas to employment and local transport hubs etc * Removal of trees and green spaces * Loss of wildlife * Safety of un-supervised children arriving/departing nearby school and playing |
| 24/163 | d. | **Bedlington Community Centre – Insurance Renewal**  The Council is asked to discuss and decide upon received insurance quotes for risks associated with its ownership of Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington, (Quote Comparison distributed to members - all risk covers are comparable). | **RESOLVED** It was unanimously **AGREED** to accept Club Insure Ltd Ecclesiastical Insurance as the providers for 2024/25 |
| 24/164 | e. | **Planning**   1. **Planning Applications – Where Comments Have Been Requested.**   The Council are asked to discuss and decide if it wishes to make any comments in relation to the Planning applications received for comment.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Ref.** | **Description** | **Response Due Date** | | 24/02929/ADE | Retrospective: Advertisement Consent for adverts erected on  commercial premises displaying information and name of business  with rolling shutters. Location 66A Front Street East Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5AB | 30th October 2024. | | 24/03606/PRUTPO | Tree Preservation Order Application - T1 Corsican Pine - remove  lower scaffold limb. Location Pinegrove House 2 Bellingham Court Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5QS | 14th November 2024. | | 24/03162/FUL | Retrospective-Erection of 12 stables and 5 barns Land To South Of Hartford Drive Hartford Drive Hartford Bridge Northumberland NE22 6AJ | 5th November 2024. |   Note: recent notified planning decisions and other planning applications (where comments have not been requested) are shown in PART C for information only). | |  | | --- | | **Determination** | | **Comment:** Reiterate Shop  Front Design Guide re:  Shuttering. | | No Comment | | **Comment:** We would  prefer the hedgerow to be  on the Southern boundary | |
| 24/165 | f. | **Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion).**   1. Any Recommendations from Working Groups for decision by full Council. 2. Any Other Items from Working Groups) – The Working Group Chair will feedback to the Council any other items discussed, any ongoing and future matters been worked upon by the working group. | **None** for this meeting   * + 1. The trip to Blackpool was very successful     2. The Christmas Lights Switch-On event will take place on 30th November     3. The Magic of Christmas afternoon will take place on 9th December |
| 24/166 | g. | **Bank Reconciliation**  The Council are asked to APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation of £17,623.50 as of 31st October 2024 and a Deposit Account Balance of £411,100.39 as of 31st October 2024, together with a CCLA account balance of £25,000. | The Bank Reconciliations were **APPROVED** by members. |

**PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR TO BE NOTED**

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|  |  | **Matters for Information or To Be Noted** | |
| 24/167 |  | **RESOLVED to NOTE**  Section’s a, b, and c.  Note section f is not part of the agenda and is included for information only. | |
|  | a. | **Chairs Update and any Reports from External Meetings.**   1. The Chair will make any relevant announcements and provide updates to members. 2. To receive feedback from Councillors from any external meetings since the date of the last Council meeting. | The Chair informed the meeting that the Remembrance Day Parade was well received and the number of residents turning out for the event was amazing.  The service held on 11th November was also well received and the children from our schools were exceptional whilst reading out their poetry. The BBC were in attendance and featured The Chair and Cllr Crosby on Look North.  Virgin Radio has contacted us saying that Jane Middlemiss would love to come and switch-on the Christmas lights (remotely via a large screen). Unfortunately, we don’t think this would be a good idea as it was too short notice for this year’s event.   1. Nothing for this meeting. |
|  | b. | **Consultations.**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | From | Description | Details | | None For This Meeting |  |  | | |
|  | c. | **Invitations.**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | From | Event | Response Details | | Ashington Male Voice Choir | Christmas Concert 2024 at St Cuthberts Church Bedlington 14th  December at 3.00pm. | Invitation to The Mayor – Cllrs Taylor and Henderson to attend. | | Northumberland Citizens Advice | Annual Public Meeting Thu 5th December 2024 Morpeth Rugby Club | Replies via link embedded in email invitation. | | |
| 24/168 | d. | **Schedule of Payments and Receipts**.  Details of payments and (receipts) to be noted since last Council update. All payments gross of VAT.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Payee | Amount  £. p | Description | Notes | | North East Regional Employers Organisation | 150.00 | Job Advertisement |  | | Reay Security Ltd | 809.64 | CCTV Charges |  | | Reay Security Ltd | 432.00 | Play Area Opening and Closing |  | | Smart Office Systems Ltd | 19.20 | Printer Costs |  | | Google One Drive | 15.99 | Annual Subscription |  | | Blackpool Tower Eye | 1,739.00 | Event Tickets |  | | Viking Payments | 29.42 | Stationary |  | | Blackpool Tower Eye | 462.00 | Event Tickets |  | | CCLA Deposit Fund Interest | **-88.22** | Interest From Investment |  | | 1p Mobile | 30.00 | Mobile Phone |  | | Blackpool Tower Eye | **-132.00** | Ticket Refunds |  | | Charmain Hamilton | 2,000.00 | Christmas Lights Switch On Event Management and Santa Giveaways |  | | Viking Payments | 124.80 | Chair |  | | Reay Security | 83.04 | CCTV Charges |  | | Charmain Hamilton | 1,170.00 | Blackpool Coach and Lunches |  | | Talk Talk Business | 59.42 | Telephone + Internet |  | | Northumberland County Council | 5,112.97 | October Payroll |  | | Northumberland County Council | **-3,000.00** | Grant Payment Received – BCC Lift |  | | Ashington & District Male Voice Choir Grant 24/140 | 300.00 | Community Chest Award |  | | Blackpool Tower Eye | 163.00 | Event Tickets |  | | Amazon | 28.96 | Tape For Remembrance |  | | Reay Security | 83.04 | CCTV Charges |  | | Service and Disabled Lifts Ltd | 6,755.40 | BCC Lift Deposit |  | | Smart Office Systems Ltd | 954.00 | New Printer |  | | Smart Office Systems Ltd | 49.24 | Printer Costs |  | | Station Entertainments Ltd | 150.00 | Remembrance PA |  | | Wireless Logic Limited | 539.14 | CCTV Sim Card Charges |  | | Northumberland County Council | 26,077.31 | Annual SLA Costs |  | | DL Maintenance & Repair | 204.42 | Bus Shelter Repair |  | | HMRC | **-4,286.03** | Vat Reclaim |  | | Charmain Hamilton | 7,350.00 | Christmas Lights Switch On Event Costs |  | | Transfer In from Deposit Account | **-10,000.00** | Internal Bank Account Transfer |  |   **Members received and approved the Schedule of Payments and Receipts listing** | |
| 24/169 | f. | **Planning decisions notified to West Bedlington Town Council by Northumberland County Council**.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Ref.** | **Description** | **Decision** | | 24/02773/FUL | Single story extension over garage, double story extension to side of  property, single story extension to back of property. Location 1 Dunstanburgh Close Hazelmere Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6NA | GRANTED | | 24/02959/FELTPO | Tree Preservation Order: T1 - Fell one Rowan tree  Location Grass Verge South Of Greenside Fairway Rise Hartford Hall Estate Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AG | PERMIT |   **Members noted the above planning decisions.** | |
| 24/170 | g. | **Police Report.**  The next scheduled regular report is for the December 2024 meeting. | |
| 24/171 | h. | **Matters for Information Only**  Any matters pertaining to the Council, that members would like to bring to the attention of other members and residents. For Information only no proposals or voting on these matters.   1. Councillors – Any matters for information only – nothing at this time. 2. Town Clerk – Governance - advance notice of impending bank charges from January 2025. Services - Repairs to play equipment awaiting spare parts from suppliers. Bus Shelter Choppington Road awaiting installation date from supplier. War Memorial, Market Place Seats and Welcome Train complete. Office closure – advance notice the office will be closed on 25th December 2024 to 2nd January 2025.       **Members noted the information items above.** | |
| 24/172 | i. | **Date of Next Meeting.**  The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 12th December 2024 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington.  The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 4th December 2024.  **Members noted the date of the next Town Council meeting.** | |

**PART D – EXEMPT BUSINESS.**

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

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|  |  | **Matters for Discussion / Decision / Information** |  |
| 24/173 |  | There is no exempt business for this meeting. |  |

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| 24/174 |  | **Close of Meeting.**  The Chair closed the meeting at 7.40 pm |

**WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL - COUNCILLORS**:

Bill Crosby, Paul Hedley, Cath Henderson, Adam Hogg, Christine Taylor,

Victoria Thompson, Jayne Todd, Di Wallace, and Russ Wallace.

**Signed by Chair Date**